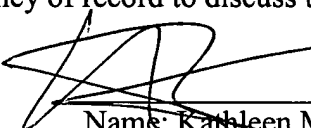


Applicants submit that by cancellation of claim 25, Groups II-VII, as restricted by the Examiner, may be rejoined as a single group for prosecution, as the claims of each of Groups II-VII are the same, with the exception that the Examiner had restricted each group to a species of candidate modulator claimed in dependent claim 25. As amended, claims 7-14, 23, 24, and 26-28 are drawn to the generic method of screening for candidate modulators of GPR86. Applicants submit that the elected claims, as amended, do not place an unduly extensive search burden on the Examiner.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application may be expedited, or facilitated by a telephone interview, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the present application.

Date: September 27, 2002


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50,648 Signing JA:
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